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**United States Patent** [19]  
**Johnson et al.**

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[54] **BIDDING FOR ENERGY SUPPLY**

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N.J.

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[21] Appl. No.: **09/023,968**

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[22] Filed: **Feb. 13, 1998**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 17/60**

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **705/412; 705/400; 705/10;**  
379/112; 379/115

[58] Field of Search ..... **705/412, 10, 400;**  
379/112, 115

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

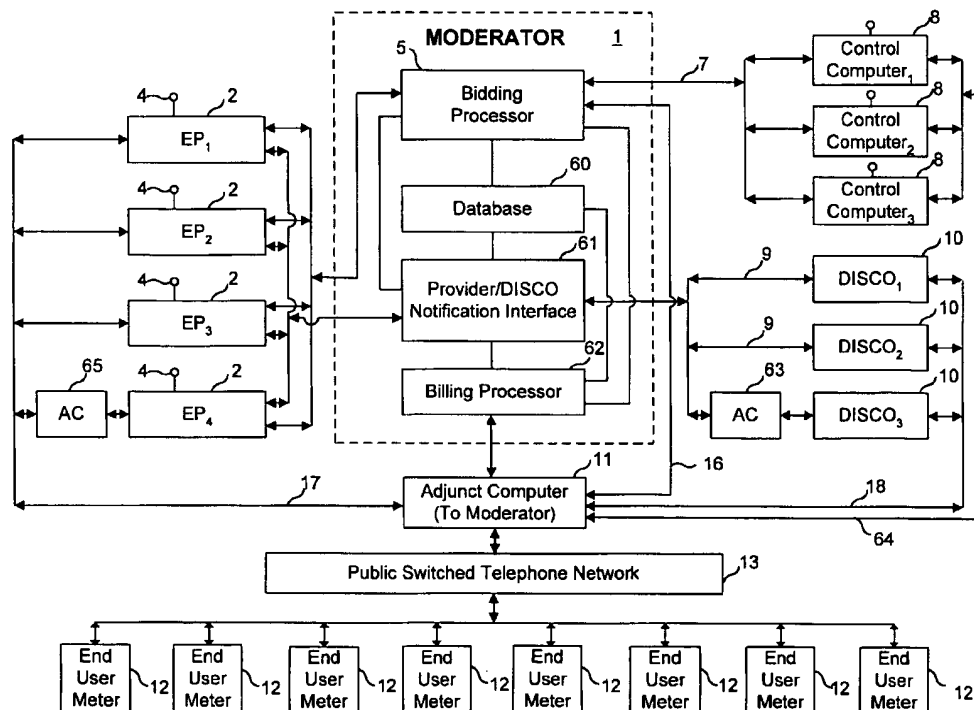
An auction service is provided that stimulates competition  
between energy suppliers (i.e., electric power or natural  
gas). A bidding moderator (Moderator) receives bids from  
the competing suppliers of the rate each is willing to charge  
to particular end users for estimated quantities of electric  
power or gas supply (separate auctions). Each supplier  
receives competing bids from the Moderator and has the  
opportunity to adjust its own bids down or up, depending on  
whether it wants to encourage or discourage additional  
energy delivery commitments in a particular geographic area  
or to a particular customer group. Each supplier's bids can  
also be changed to reflect each supplier's capacity utiliza-  
tion. Appropriate billing arrangements are also disclosed.

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**44 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets**



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TITLE: Bidding for energy supply

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Abstract Text - ABTX (1):

An auction service is provided that stimulates competition between energy suppliers (i.e., electric power or natural gas). A bidding moderator (Moderator) receives bids from the competing suppliers of the rate each is willing to charge to particular end users for estimated quantities of electric power or gas supply (separate auctions). Each supplier receives competing bids

from the Moderator and has the opportunity to adjust its own bids down or up, depending on whether it wants to encourage or discourage additional energy delivery commitments in a particular geographic area or to a particular customer group. Each supplier's bids can also be changed to reflect each supplier's capacity utilization. Appropriate billing arrangements are also disclosed.